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Draft report

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Addendum

**Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug
programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as
its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and
strategic management questions**

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 16 March 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

“Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;

(a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;

(b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;

(c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

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2. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2015/6-E/CN.15/2015/6);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime adopted since 2012 in which action by the Office was requested (E/CN.7/2015/10);

(d) Report on the reconvened fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2014/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2014/16/Add.1).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management. The representative of Spain, in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, also made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the Director of the Division for Operations and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs.

4. Statements were made by the representative of Chile (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China). Statements were also made by the representatives of Brazil, India, Japan, Indonesia, the United States of America, Thailand, China and the Republic of Korea.

5. Statements were made by the observers for Sweden, Norway and South Africa.

6. A statement was also made by the observer for the Washington Office on Latin America.

Deliberations

7. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC as a useful forum for exchanging information and for its role in enhancing cooperation on programmatic and financial matters between Member States and UNODC, and expressed their support for the extension of its mandate. It was mentioned that the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was of great value.

8. The increase in special-purpose contributions was welcomed as a sign of donors' confidence in the work of the Office, although concern was expressed over the decline in general-purpose resources. Speakers stressed the importance of continuing efforts to solicit general-purpose funds from Member States and in-kind contributions from recipient States, and to widen the donor base.

9. Some speakers welcomed the implementation of full cost recovery as an instrument for increased transparency and sustainability. Speakers highlighted the continuing need to evaluate the impact of full cost recovery on programme delivery.

One speaker recalled that the new funding model had been approved on a provisional basis and that its feasibility should be reviewed, and stressed the importance of its consistent and transparent implementation. Some speakers stated that the use of programme support costs should not be limited to headquarters and that a flexible application of programme support costs should be explored. It was important for UNODC to stay competitive by maintaining low overhead costs. Cost-saving measures should be continued and further information on cost-efficiencies in the field and at headquarters should be provided to Member States.

10. Several speakers welcomed the inclusion of the item on the composition of UNODC staff and other related matters in the agenda of the Commission. Speakers expressed concern regarding the inadequate geographical representation of developing countries and regarding gender balance, and urged UNODC to take appropriate action in that regard by fully incorporating those elements into the recruitment policy of UNODC both at headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior and policymaking levels and for professional posts requiring specific skills. It was mentioned that the focus of the Charter of the United Nations on the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in all hiring decisions should be supported, and organizations should be encouraged to develop comprehensive diversity, recruitment and workforce-planning strategies that addressed gender equality and cultural diversity. Speakers noted that the item should remain as a separate item on the agenda of the Commission and urged UNODC to engage in an open and transparent dialogue and provide the requested disaggregated information in writing. One speaker called for an immediate action plan to ensure equal gender balance.

11. Several speakers underscored the need for constant improvement in results-based management in UNODC and commended the efforts of the Office to report on programme-level results. Welcoming the ongoing development of the annual report and annual appeal, hope was expressed that they, along with the ongoing institutionalization of a culture of evaluation, would lead to a clear strategic narrative that would provide a holistic picture of the Office's achievements at headquarters and in the Field. Some speakers mentioned the need for defining robust indicators and for ensuring that the Office's programmes were based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The importance of cooperating with other entities of the United Nations system and civil society was also mentioned.

12. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the methodology used to develop the model legislative provisions to combat fraudulent medicines posing threats to public health, referred to in paragraph 32 of the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Office (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2), and requested detailed information on that activity, its funding, the process of selection of experts and its current status.